

WELCOME TO KENYA - KARIBU KENYA

The welcome brief serves as an orientation tool.

About Kenya

Kenya is a country in the Eastern Africa region. The capital city is Nairobi. English is the official language and Swahili is the national language. It is a multi-ethnic state and various tribal groups typically speak their mother tongues within their own communities.

Passport and Visa

It is the travellers' responsibility to verify if a visa is required for their nationalities.

All visitors to Kenya are required to apply and pay for their visas online through www.evisa.go.ke. The cost of the visa is US\$50. Online visas take up to two days to be processed. The visa will be processed and sent online to the applicant who will then be required to print out the approved visa and present it to an immigration officer at the point of entry for the actual visa sticker mounting on the passport upon arrival.

Vaccination Certificates

Vaccination for Yellow Fever should be taken before visiting Kenya. Yellow Fever Certificate is required.

Anti-Malaria drugs should be taken to prevent Malaria two weeks before arrival and continue two weeks after leaving.

Communication

Cellular network coverage is good in main cities and much of the south of the country, but coverage is unreliable and often unavailable in the northern counties.

Telecommunications operators Safaricom and Airtel have roaming services. Safaricom is considered the most reliable, particularly in remote areas. Personnel can easily obtain a local SIM card from accredited stores across the country and airports, and top-up payment cards for these are also readily available. It is advisable to purchase cards from genuine Safaricom and Airtel outlets because mobile phone fraud e.g., SIM swap.

Currency

The local currency is the Kenyan shilling. Currency can be exchanged in foreign exchange bureaus and banks. Banks operate between 8/9AM and 4/6PM (weekdays), and 9AM to 12/4PM on Saturdays depending on the bank branch. The easiest currencies to exchange are the US Dollar, Sterling Pounds, and the Euro.

Climate

Kenya has a pleasant climate throughout the year, but can get chilly in the evening, so bringing a jacket or sweater is advisable.

Hotels

Kenya offers a variety of classified hotels and lodges. Use security cleared hotels and residences.

Transport

The main airports are namely, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi, Moi International Airport in Mombasa, Eldoret International Airport in Eldoret and Kisumu International Airport in Kisumu. Wilson Airport in Nairobi handles light aircrafts as well as scheduled and chartered domestic flights. There are also many other airstrips around the country. Arrange with the hotel you have booked for a driver to pick you upon arrival.

Electricity

Almost all areas in Kenya have electricity connection. However, the country experiences intermittent power outages.

Water

Although tap water is available in all major towns, it is advisable to drink bottled water. Nairobi experiences intermittent water shortages.

Shopping

Nairobi has some of the best places to shop in East Africa with supermarkets, shopping malls and open-air markets. Popular shopping malls include: Sarit Centre in Westlands, Yaya Centre in Hurlingham, Village Market in Gigiri, Junction Mall along Ngong Road, The Hub in Karen and Two Rivers Mall along Limuru road.

Safety and Security

The greatest risks in Kenya stem from road traffic accidents, crime, unrest, and extremism. Violent and petty crime pose the most significant security risks to those in urban centres, especially in Nairobi. The risk of unrest tends to be heightened during national political events, including elections.

In northern and rural areas, banditry and communal violence pose significant risks, the risks of which are exacerbated during extended periods of droughts.

The threat of violent extremism remains extant, particularly in Nairobi, Nakuru, Naivasha, Coast, and north-eastern Kenya (areas bordering Somalia). Extremists generally aim to cause maximum damage or loss of life, thus, places with larger population gatherings (e.g. malls, places of worship, bus stops, upmarket hotels, popular bars and restaurants) are more likely to become targets.

Any safety and security incident as well as suspicious behaviour or threatening situations must be immediately reported to the IFRC Regional Security Unit.

The current security phases in Kenya are varied:

- **Red** in the counties of Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Lamu;

- **Orange** in the counties of Tana River, Marsabit, West Pokot, Baringo, Isiolo and Turkana
- **Yellow** in the rest of the country, including in Nairobi.

In Nairobi, delegates, their families, and visitors are advised against visits to:

- East of Moi Avenue, especially Eastleigh and other Eastland's estates
- Slums and low-income housing areas such as Kibera, Mathare, Kawangware, Kangemi.

Other parts of Kenya that are **"No Go Zones"** for delegates on private trips due to threat of armed cattle rustlers and banditry:

- West Pokot; beyond Kapenguria (on A1 Kitale to Lodwar road)
- Baringo district; beyond Loruk (on B4 north of Nakuru)
- Mount Elgon area, northeast of Eldoret and east of Kitale.
- Koibatek; beyond Kamnarok (on C52 by Kamnarok National Reserve)
- Samburu; beyond Kisima (25 km south of Maralal National Reserve, at the C77/C78 junction)
- Isiolo; beyond Isiolo town (neither north on A2 nor east on B9)
- Tharakanithi; east of Meru National Park (Delegates are permitted to access the Meru NP if approached from Meru town).
- Tana River; use of Garissa Road but not east of Nguni (on A3 Thika to Garissa Road).

Travel Advice

- Always maintain an appropriate level of security-related awareness and preparation.
- Maintain a low profile and do not carry or display valuables that may entice criminal behavior.
- Do not visit low-income areas and shantytowns unless operationally critical.
- Avoid public gatherings and do not take photographs of such (e.g., demonstrations)
- Limit time and exposure in crowded public places (e.g., malls, places of worship, restaurants, and bars).
- Do not walk alone in public areas, especially during dark hours.
- When travelling in a motor-vehicle, ensure windows and doors are always locked.
- Avoid travelling outside city limits during dark hours.
- Do not use local public transport (i.e., town buses, minivan taxis, and motorcycle taxis).
- Use IFRC security cleared taxi companies.
- Do not drive vehicles unless you are familiar with the local traffic situation and area (ensure you are in possession of valid driving license).
- Avoid driving by yourself outside town limits.
- Avoid going sightseeing or on Safari alone, use registered and experienced travel guides.

- Do not take photographs of sensitive installations or government personnel (e.g., military, police, government, critical infrastructure).
- If confronted by a criminal offender do not resist unless it is necessary to save your life (valuables can be replaced – your life not).

Hotel Safety and Security

- Do not give out personal information to strangers (e.g., name, hotel room number).
- Do not leave valuables unattended in your room, make use of the hotels (in-room) safety locker.
- Lock your room door when inside your room, do not open your room for persons you do not know.
- Familiarize yourself with the hotel emergency procedures (e.g., evacuation plan, exits).
- Do not use the elevator during emergency evacuation, use the staircase or emergency exit instead.
- Report any hazards (e.g., smoke/fire) or threats (e.g., suspicious behavior) immediately to the hotel.

Medical Assistance

In case of illness or injury, IFRC recommends the following Hospitals:

Nairobi

Aga Khan University Hospital
3rd Parklands Avenue, Limuru Road, Nairobi

+254 711 092 000, +254 (0)20 366 2000,
+254 (0)20 366 2028

Nairobi Hospital

Argwings Kodhek Rd, Nairobi
+254 703 082 000, +254 (0)20 284 5000,
+254 (0)20 284 6000

Naivasha

Aga Khan Medical Centre
Mbaria Kaniu Road Eagle Centre, Naivasha
+254 711 092 587, +254 733 801 372
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 6:00 pm; Sunday & Public
Holidays: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Karen Hospital

Luxor Towers, along Biashara Street, Naivasha
+254 724 412 107
Monday- Saturday 8am- 6pm

Diani

Diani Beach Hospital
Diani Beach Road
+254 733 255 153, +254 722 569 261, +254 700
999 999.

Emergency Contacts

IFRC Senior Security Officer

Ivone Muchiri - +254 733 632 945

Kenya Red Cross Society

South C, Red Cross Road, Off Popo Road
1199, +254 703 037 000, +254 733 333 040

Express Impress Taxi Company (Nairobi)

+254 729 872647, +254 708 799070
+254 734 398977

SideWays Taxi Company (Nairobi)

Noah Njuguna Karanja- +254720988993
Clement Wagacha- +254709346099

Diplomatic Police Unit-Gigiri Police Station

United Nations Crescent, off Limuru Road
+254 731 170 666, +254 708 589 522

National Police Service

999, 112

Fire Brigade

Nairobi City County
+254 (0)20 2344 599, +254 (0)20 2222 181